

BIOGRAPHICAL.

REV. DEXTER BATES fell asleep in Jesus, at his residence in Springfield, Vt., March 9, 1845, aged 67 years. Father Bates, during a protracted sickness of five years (four of which he was confined to his bed) manifested the power of that salvation which it had been his delight to proclaim to a lost world. In 1840 he was suddenly laid aside from public labor by a stroke of paralysis, and for the last four years he was perfectly helpless, requiring attendance day and night, and from the time he was first taken sick, he had seventeen fits; but he bore all his sufferings with perfect resignation, enjoyed great peace of mind, and his way to glory was unclouded. He joined the New York Conference in 1804, in which year he travelled the Plattsburg circuit; in 1805, Fletcher circuit; in 1806, Grand Isle circuit; in 1807, Vergennes circuit; in 1808, Brandon circuit, and in 1809 located, in consequence of bleeding at the stomach, since which time he has labored extensively as a local preacher, with general acceptability and usefulness. He being dead, yet speaketh.

JOHN CLARKE.
Springfield, Vt., April 1, 1845.

BR. JOHN SANBORN died of fever, in Poplin, N.H., March 8, aged 35 years. Br. S. experienced religion a little more than two years ago. He has ever since been a devoted Christian, and a worthy member of the M. E. Church in this place. At the time of his death he was a class-leader. It seemed for some time as though he was preparing for something more than usual. His sickness was short and severe, yet he was an example of resignation. He left many precious savings, such as, "religion makes hard things easy," "the Lord hath taken away all my fears," &c.

LOREN H. GORDON.
Poplin, N. H., March 24, 1845.

MR. DANIEL MUNDELL died in Hubbardston, Feb. 8, aged 105 years. Some, however, supposed him to be much older, from the fact that he left England for this country during the French and Indian war, and was then 21 years of age. He was a connecting link between this and the past generation. He was a man of giant constitution, and seemed to die of disease rather than old age. His countenance on the day of his funeral was as fresh as though in the morning of life. Though poor and an object of charity, he was rich in faith. His theme during his last days was religion, his book the Bible. He has left 5 children, some of whom are over 70 years of age, 67 grand-children, 57 great-grand-children, and one of the fifth generation.

G. W. BATES.
Will the Boston Recorder please copy?

ELIAS LITTLEFIELD, ESQ., of Alfred, Me., departed this life, 20th ult., in the triumphs of faith, aged 32 years. Br. Littlefield spent several years in the city of Boston, and was well known there as a business man. He was converted while in Boston, in 1842. His health became impaired, so that he could not successfully prosecute his business, and in 1842 he returned to this town. As his health declined, he felt the importance of entire submission to God. He laid himself upon the altar, and God accepted the sacrifice. He became perfectly reconciled to the dealings of God with him, and waited for his change without a murmur. For several weeks he enjoyed great "peace in believing, and joy in the Holy Ghost." The night of his death he called his family to his bedside, and delivered to each his dying charge. The scene, though solemn, was delightful. In the full exercise of reason, and with a heart overflowing with love to God, he exhorted all present to prepare to meet him in *eternity*. He then fell asleep in Christ.

H. M. EATON.
Alfred, Me.

MRS. ALMIRA, wife of Charles Simmons, of Kingston, died Jan. 1, aged 35 years. Sister Simmons experienced religion in 1831, through the instrumentality of reading Wesley's sermons. Since that time, up to the time of her death, she lived a life of uniform and deep piety. One of her neighbors remarked to me of her, what cannot be said of all professors of religion, "Her example was as good as her precept." She joined the M. E. Church in Penroke, in the year 1833. In the spring of 1842 her relation was removed to the West Duxbury Church, where she continued a worthy, respected, and much beloved member, until God called her up to join the church triumphant. While living and praising in heaven, she will live long in the memory of a husband, five children, and a circle of acquaintance which she leaves on earth.

GO. H. WINCHESTER.
West Duxbury, April 1, 1845.

MISS MARY ANN, daughter of Job and Anna Frost, died at the Mass. General Hospital, in Boston, March 18, aged 22 years. Miss Frost was a member of the Methodist E. Church at the age of 15 years. She possessed good powers of mind, and an amiable disposition. But that which more than all things else adorned her character, was the humility and devotion of the Christian. She walked with God. The reading of the Holy Scriptures, and prayer, were to her delightful duties. In her sickness, the blessed Savior supported her. So supporting were her joys at one time, and so deeply impressed was she with her Savior's presence and support, that she could only exclaim, in the language of the poet,

"Jesus can make a dying bed,
Feel soft as down pillows are," &c.

Although bound by strong ties of affection to her brothers and other relatives, she was made willing to die. Her remains were carried to Sandwich, N. H., and there, after the funeral ceremonies were performed, were laid by the side of her affectionate father, who died in the triumphs of faith, about one year since.

P. B. H.
Will the Morning Star please copy.

JESSE DUNHAM died in Orland, Me., March 7, aged 51. Br. Dunham was reclaimed from a backslidden state six years since, and joined the M. E. Church, on trial, in Penobscot. He was afterwards induced to join the Freewill Baptist Church, then just organized in N. Penobscot. Two years since, he returned to the M. E. Church, in which he lived a consistent and devoted member, until death called him away. He suffered extremely about ten days, then calmly fell asleep in Jesus. In his sickness was gloriously illustrated the power of evangelical faith. A large family mourn his loss. May the religion of their father be enjoyed by them.

D. HIGGINS.
North Penobscot, March 31, 1845.

ROBERT, younger son of Harry and Sarah E. Lowell, died in Penobscot, March 3, aged 5 months. It suffered much for several weeks, but Christ transferred it to a more genial clime. It is hard to part with such lovely pledges of affection; but the reflection that Christ has prepared mansions of rest for such weary ones, may enable the bereaved to exclaim with Job, "The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

D. HIGGINS.
North Penobscot, March 31, 1845.

SISTER ABBY, widow of Dr. Calvin Howes, died in North Dennis, Jan. 5, aged 25 years, after a long sickness, throughout which she evinced that religion was able to sustain in every trying hour. During her sickness, her husband died at sea, and death removed a tender babe, while one son lives to mourn their loss. To resign the dead, she said,

to God, was easy; they had but preceded her to their blissful home; but to leave her boy parentless, required all the grace she could have; yet of this, her last earthly tie, she could say, "God's will be done." Sister H. had enjoyed the blessings of religion four years; two of which she had been a beloved member of our church. With her soul calmly trusting in God, her faith unshaken, her tide of life ran out, and the first Sabbath of a new year ushered her to an eternal Sabbath, and time and date are known no more.

SAM'L. FOX.

For Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal.

PHYSIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Experience as the test of physiological evidence in opposition to the relation of cause and effect, that of metaphysical evidence—Spurzheim—Presumptive evidence of materialism or vitality.

The evidence we have thus far produced demonstrates beyond the possibility of doubt in the mind of any candid man, the materialism of Brown, Bichat, and Brussais, upon the point of vitality. And since these celebrated men propounded the leading doctrines of the day in which they lived, to wit, from about the middle of the last century to the present time, upon medicine and physiology, it is not at all singular that the profession of medicine became, to a greater or less degree, imbued with the spirit of their philosophy, and that they discard the idea of a vital entity or principle superadded to matter in an organized state, and that they have now become eloquent in teaching the *abstraction* of life, and that nothing exists which cannot be proved by the senses! We have also proved that these were the doctrines of Gall, the founder of the phrenological system; that he strongly contended the physician should never trust himself beyond the *material* world, and must neither "affirm" nor "deny" any thing but what can be proved by *experience*. Nor must he direct his researches to a spiritual substance alone, nor to this inanimate body alone, but to the living man, the result of a vegetative life and an animal life. (See Gall's works on the Functions of the Brain, Vol. 1, p. 173.) Hence, though the physiologist might not investigate either spirit or matter alone, he may investigate both together; since, in this condition, man is the "result of animal and vegetative life," both of which are "properties" of the organization, as much so as the power of forming crystals is a property in minerals. Whence we infer, that, since the physiologist is to "affirm" or "deny" nothing which may not be proved by *experience*, these properties of vegetables and animals have been proved to have an *existence*, as *properties*, by *experience*; and that, on the other hand, he can neither "affirm" nor "deny" any thing of the existence of a "spiritual substance" in man, because he has no *experience* upon that subject!

Let us ask the candid and reflecting man whether experience does not furnish as much evidence that vitality is an ethereal or spiritual substance superadded to matter, as it does that vitality is a property inherent in the constitution of matter, and in no way separable from it? Can experience prove any thing more than the existence of phenomena resulting from this principle when in action? And not, why can we not to it that it is a property of matter rather than an essential principle of itself? And not only so, but does not experience conclusively prove, may, does it not demonstrate, that a stream can never rise higher than its fountain? That a cause can never impart to its effect powers which it did not itself possess? Has experience ever proved the existence of spontaneous organization from the stones in the street, from the sands upon the shore, or from the crude inanimate materials of creation? Or indeed has experience proved that the organization of the oyster, *as an organization*, is not as perfect, as complex, as intricate, and as mysterious in its character, as is that of man himself? Who has ever unravelled the organization of any organ, however low in the scale of animalization, so as to say that radically and primarily it is less complex and intricate than in more perfect animals? And yet in the absence of all proof upon these points from experience, does experience prove that life becomes more perfect and improves with the organization, when that very experience proves nothing, and knows nothing, of either the nature of life or of that of organization? Where is the man who will come forward and declare in the face of day that his experience has proved to him that his life is but a property of his organization, in contradistinction to it? Yet according to Gall, he may believe the former opinion, but he must plead "ignorance" to the latter—he must neither "affirm" nor "deny" any thing in relation to it!

It is hoped the reader will pardon me for this digression, as I intended, when I took my pen, to say something upon the opinion of Dr. Spurzheim, the co-worker and fellow-laborer with Gall, upon the question before us. Was, or was not, Spurzheim a materialist as well as Gall, upon the subject of vitality?

Notwithstanding the high encomiums lavished upon Spurzheim by Mr. Capen, as a Christian, "whose life was a model of Christian excellence," and that it was "eminently calculated to inspire reverence for the doctrines of the Savior," we nevertheless affirm that he, in common with Gall, regarded life but as a nullity, a mere abstraction, a property of organized matter. That Spurzheim was a man of correct external deportment, and in his general intercourse with mankind that he was a gentleman, none will deny; and that he was moral and upright in his dealings will be equally admitted, though some, even of his own friends, have intimated some against him in his treatment of Gall, by arrogating more to himself than really belonged to him in the discovery of phrenology. (See Boardman's Introductory Essay to Combe's Lectures.) Be this as it may, however, a Christian materialist, or a Christian infidel, sounds about as incongruous as a long-short-fluid, a deep-shallow-metal, or a virtuous-wicked-machine! Whether such incongruous epithets could be applied to the character of Dr. Spurzheim or not, depends upon the fact whether he was a materialist or not. Nor will it necessarily follow that he was an infidel, a materialist, as to the soul, by being one in infidelity to vitality. At present, therefore, we do not wish to be understood as saying that Spurzheim was a materialist as to the former point until we prove him to be so in some subsequent communication, (as we intend to do) but only as to the latter. That he was a materialist in this respect we now propose to establish by facts and evidence, which, if we succeed in doing it, will be a strong presumptive evidence that he was also a materialist as to the soul. That we convey no wrong impression as to his early bias, by means of education, social relations, &c., we append some facts connected with his biography.

John Gaspar Spurzheim was born on the 31st of December, 1776, at Longwick, a village about seven miles from the city of Treves, on the Moselle, in the lower circle of the Rhine, now under the dominion of Prussia. His parents cultivated a farm of the rich Abby of St. Maximin de Treves, and he received his collegiate education in the university of that city. His parents designed him for a clergyman, but, in 1799, when the French invaded that part of Germany, he went to Vienna to study medicine. Here he became acquainted with Gall. He entered with great zeal into the consideration of the new doctrine, and to use his own words, "he was simply a hearer of Dr. Gall till 1804, at which period he was associated with him in his labors, and his character of hearer ceased." Spurzheim commenced attending Gall's lectures, which were given at his own house in Vienna in the year 1800. From 1804, the time at which Spurzheim associated himself with Gall, until the year 1813, when they separated, Gall and Spurzheim, says Mr. Capen, were constantly together, and their researches were conducted in common. On the 6th of

March, 1805, they both left Vienna to travel at large over the continent and disseminate their doctrines; during which tour they visited a large number of important places in Europe, and returned to Paris in November, 1807, having been on this visit two years and eight months. (See Capen's Biography of Spurzheim.)

My first argument, therefore, is *presuppose*. Other things being equal, and unless what was peculiarly guarded against it, Spurzheim, *being a pupil, and eagerly desirous to learn, would embrace the views of his teachers*. No person is born with either a belief or disbelief in materialism. This would suppose innate ideas, and would confound organization with thought. And though, at a period so late in a child's existence as birth, it is hard to conceive that it has never experienced want, and that consequently its mind is not like a *tabula rasa*, a white sheet of paper, it is equally evident the child's belief will conform to the opinions of those who instruct him, if all other things are equal. Who ever heard of a savage spontaneously believing and teaching the doctrines of Christianity until after he had heard of those doctrines? Who ever spontaneously believed or taught the doctrine of gravity, until Newton, by original reasoning and thinking upon the nature of a cause and that of its effect, on seeing an apple fall, first pronounced such a doctrine? Unless the opinions of a child conform to the opinions of his instructors, a child isolated from every human being will become just as intelligent a man, and will have just the same opinions and belief upon every subject, the first time they are presented to him, as that man will who, from his childhood, has been taught by the best masters of the age.

And why? Because every man's belief depends upon the ideas he has, whether true or false, of the object upon which he is required to have a belief or hold an opinion. Now, whether a man be influenced in his opinion by his instructors or not depends upon the fact whether he has received the greater number of his ideas from his instructors, or whether they are *original* with him—whether they are spontaneous and generated in his own mind. In the former case his knowledge will be proportioned to the intelligence of his instructors, but in the latter, a Casper Hauser is just as wise and as intelligent as the greatest philosopher! In such a case, the man knows just as much about the earth, and has as correct opinions of it, who has all his days been excluded from society, and has never seen the face of man, the first time he sees that earth, as he who has all his days been an attendant upon schools, and has just risen from a learned, judicious, and an interesting course of lectures upon geology! The truth is men are biased, and they do form opinions in accordance with the views of their associates; and such is presumed to have been the case with Spurzheim. We have already seen that he commenced his medical studies in 1799, while he was only in his 22d year, at an age, too, when it could hardly be said he had become established in his opinions, especially upon so important a subject as the one now before us even if he had examined it at all. Eager in the pursuit of knowledge, and not being very furnished with the necessary data by which to test every new view and every idea, especially when presented in a captivating form and supported and "backed up" by a bulk of pretended facts. The youthful mind easily and readily embraces the whole, and becomes either a convert or an admirer and a follower of the new doctrine.

In addition to all this, the doctrines of Brown were at that time very prevalent in the medical profession; and though not so openly avowed in medical schools, yet there furnished a sort of basis for medical reasoning throughout Europe and America. The doctrine of *excitability* as a property of organic parts, and the mode of its explanation, appeared so simple, so easy, so natural, and so conclusive, few had the hardihood to reject it altogether; and the idea that life was a nullity—a mere show—a real presence, appeared so obvious from the manner in which it was exhibited, that a man would almost be consigned to the madhouse who should pretend to a belief in such a will-o'-the-wisp—in such a creature of the imagination!

His mind being thus prepared by the medical doctrines of the day, and also by the popular infidel opinion which had extended from France, and which had corrupted both church and state as well as the populace, to a considerable degree, young Spurzheim became acquainted with Gall, and in the year 1800 attended regularly upon his lectures. Here he not only received new ideas, but he also had old ones denounced, and the metaphysical distinctions of body, life, and soul, as contended for by the ancients, were treated as idle tales—as creatures of the imagination—as constituting divisions without distinctions, except in so far as organization made such a difference or distinction—that life was an abstraction—that physiology should take the place of metaphysics—and that an *a priori* mode of reasoning (or from the cause to its effects) is no evidence of the truth of a proposition not demonstrable by the senses; but that an *a posteriori* mode of argument in physiological research, (or from the effect back to its cause) is both logical and conclusive. All these propositions being presented and supported by a choice collection of facts, said to be taken from nature and brought to bear upon the point at issue, combined with the novelty of the theory and the address of the lecturer, had an overbearing influence upon the mind of Spurzheim; he became a convert, embraced the system, and subsequently, when he had finished his four years' term of pupils under Gall, became associated with him, and remained with him for nine years—up to the year 1813—being 13 years in all, including pupilage and partnership.

Such being the facts, I urge the inference as presumptive evidence that Spurzheim was a materialist equally with Gall. It cannot for a moment be pretended that Spurzheim was ignorant of Gall's views upon the subject of life. If he were ignorant, then he could not be said to understand the system of Gall himself, and consequently he could not expand it. If he were not ignorant of it, then he either embraced it or discarded it, either in whole or in part. But we know he did not reject it as a whole; if he did in part, he should have said so; otherwise he is responsible for the whole, whether he believed it or not. Since, therefore, he has not seen fit to reject this point of belief, we have a right to presume he did believe it, and believed that man differs from a stone in the street only in this, that the master of which the former is composed has been so circumstanted as to bring out its dormant—its latent properties, and man is the result; while in the latter, the master of which the stone is composed has never been so circumstanted, and consequently it remains a stone still! Our positive evidence upon this point will be presented in next.

ZION'S HERALD AND WESLEYAN JOURNAL.

Where smiles the dew-drop the night-shadows woo?

Where the young flow'rets dip,
Leaving each perfumed lip;
Close in the rose's heart, loving and true;
Paused on an emerald shaft,
Where never sunbeam laughed,
Deep in the dingle—the beautiful dew!

Where glows the water-pledge, given of old?
Tis dropped down from God's throne,
When the shower is gone;
A chain of pure gems, linked with purple and gold;
In Eden-hues blushing,
With infinity gushing,

Like the book of Life, its lone half untold.

The bright bow of promise; the sign of power;

The crown of the sky;

The pathway on high;

Whence angels bend to us when darksome clouds lower

Breathing so silently,

Kindly and truthfully—

O, their wings for a shield, in the wrath-bearing hour!

Then we'll love the threads lacing our beautiful world,

Tangling the sun-beams;

Laughter in glorious gleams;

The waters all dimpled, and the spray-tresses curled;

The tear on the flower's breast;

The gem in the ocean-crust,

And the ladder of angels, by rain-drops impared.

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